

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

OMB-01 /078 W

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R 160742 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7816

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3082

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: DISSENT STILL ALIVE IN NDP

SUMMARY: RESPECTED NDP FIGURE CHONG IL- HYONG HAS SPOKEN OUT AGAINST YU CHIN- SAN' S LEADERSHIP. WHILE CHONG HAS LITTLE POWER, HIS REMARKS ILLUSTRATE THAT DISSENT IS STILL ALIVE IN THE ROK. END SUMMARY.

1. IN SPITE OF YU CHIN- SAN' S FIRM CONTROL OVER NDP, DISCORDANT NOTE WAS SOUNDED MAY 15 BY ASSEMBLYMAN CHONG IL- HYONG, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM OVERSEAS TRIP. CHONG MET WITH REPORTERS AND ISSUED STATEMENT CRITICIZING SYSTEM OF " ONE- MAN RULE" IN NDP, RECENTLY CONSOLIDATED DURING PARTY' S CONVENTION, AS " UNDEMOCRATIC." CHONG COMPLAINED THAT NDP IN PRESENT STATE IS AN OPPOSITION PARTY IN NAME ONLY, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD LEAD " CRITICAL ELEMENTS" IN EFFORT TO CHANGE PARTY FROM WITHIN.

2. AS IF TO UNDERLINE HIS OPPOSITION TO YU' S LEADERSHIP, CHONG HAS TURNED DOWN YU' S OFFER TO ASSUME POST AS ONE OF NDP VICE PRESIDENTS, AND ALSO REFUSED SEAT ON PARTY' S POWERFUL POLITICAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL, A BODY IN WHICH SOME 28 OUT OF 30 MEMBERS ARE SUPPORTERS OF YU. THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY OTHERS IN THE PARTY WHO CONTINUE TO OPPOSE YU' S CONTROL AND HIS POLICY OF CLOSE COOPERATION WITH
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THE GOVERNMENT. UNDER TODAY' S CONDITION OF TIGHT GOVERN-
MENT CONTROL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, HOWEVER, AND SO LONG
AS YU CHIN- SAN CONTINUES TO BE REGARDED AS THE GOVERN-
MENT' S PREFERRED LEADER OF THE NDP, FEW IF ANY ARE LIKELY
TO SPEAK OUT AS CHONG HAS DONE. HIS REMARKS, WHICH WERE
GIVEN REASONABLE PRESS COVERAGE, INDICATE THAT DISSENT IS
STILL ALIVE IN THE ROK. THIS, HOWEVER, PROBABLY HAS MORE
SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FUTURE THAN FOR THE
IMMEDIATE POLITICAL SCENE.
HABIB

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